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Oct. 31, 2003

SCIENTIFICATION TO 2003

## FOIA REQUEST

(202) 586-5955 fax (202) 586-0575

ENERGY DEPARTMENT

Washington, DC 20585

Director, FOIA/PA Division, HR-73 1000 Independence Ave., S.W.

Dear FOI Officer:

Pursuant to the federal Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. s. 552, I request access to and copies of copies of memoranda, e-mails, notes of meetings and phone calls, calendar entries, reports and other-records related to DOE headquarters approval and consideration of the "global settlement" proposed by Bonneville Power Administration to Northwest public and investor-owned utilities to resolve litigation over various power and financial contracts. This request includes the following:

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- Records, as specified above, involving the Secretary of Energy's office, Secretary Abraham and Deputy Kyle McSlarrow;
- Records, as specified above, involving communications between the Secretary's office and Bonneville's legislative affairs office in Washington, D.C., and Portland, OR, headquarters;
- Records, as specified above, involving Northwest aluminum companies and their representatives, investor-owned utility representatives and lobbyists, and public utility representatives;
- Records, as specified above, involving White House officials;
- Records, as specified above, involving members of the Northwest congressional delegation.

The "global settlement" referred to here is the settlement approved in the Oct, 21, 2003, record of decision by BPA Administrator Stephen Wright titled "Litigation Settlement Including Slice Settlement Agreements and Investor-Owned Utilities' Amended Residential Exchange Program Settlement Agreements."

I agree to pay reasonable duplication fees for the processing of this request in an amount not to exceed \$100. However, please notify me prior to your incurring any expenses in excess of that amount. As a representative of the news media I am only required to pay for the direct cost of duplication after the first 100 pages.

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Through this request, I am gathering information on the proposed BPA settlement that is of current interest to the public because it has a critical impact on power prices affecting millions of Northwest ratepayers. This information is being sought on behalf of *The Oregonian* for dissemination to the general public.

Please waive any applicable fees. Release of the information is in the public interest because it will contribute significantly to public understanding of the reasons for the settlement and the likelihood that the settlement will be completed as proposed.

If my request is denied in whole or part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the act. I will also expect you to release all segregable portions of otherwise exempt material. I, of course, reserve the right to appeal your decision to withhold any information or to deny a waiver of fees.

As I am making this request as a journalist and this information is of timely value, I would appreciate your communicating with me by telephone, rather than by mail, if you have questions regarding this request.

I look forward to your reply within 20 business days, as the statute requires.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

Tom Detzel

Newhouse News Service

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